

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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R 291315Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8070

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 0943

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4411

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MO, SP, SS, SA

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: SAUDI ARABIAN POSITION

REF : (A) RABAT 3497; (B) RABAT 3342; (C) RABAT 3371

SUMMARY: SAUDI ARABIA BELIEVES SPAIN MUST GIVE UP CONTROL
OVER SPANISH SAHARA AND WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO SUPPORT MOROCCO
IN THE EVENT OF A SHOWDOWN WITH SPAIN OVER THIS ISSUE. SAG
BELIEVES ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY BUT THAT THIS WILL
TAKE TIME. SAG POLICY, THEREFORE, IS TO URGE RESTRAINT AND THE
AVOIDANCE OF STEPS WHICH COULD PRECIPITATE A CRISIS. IF ASKED
SAG PREPARED TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO MEDIATE DISPUTE. END
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SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 28 POLCHIEF DISCUSSED WITH FONOFF DIRECTOR ARAB AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR ABDULRAHMAN AL-QADI, SAUDI VIEWS ON SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE. IT APPEARS FROM THIS DISCUSSION THAT SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN RABAT HAS OVERSIMPLIFIED SAUDI POSITION (REFS B AND C) OF SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO.

2. AL-QADI CONFIRMED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD IN THE VENT OF AS SHOWDOWN BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO FEEL CONSTRAINED TO SUPPORT ITS FELLOW ARAB NATION. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, SA HAS AVOIDED TAKING A STAND AND HAS NOT COMMUNICATED ITS SUPPORT IN THIS DISPUTE TO THE GOM.

3. THE SAUDI POSITION AS DEFINED BY AL-QADI AND WHICH APPARENTLY HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO BOTH SPAIN AND MOROCCO IS THAT NO ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN WHICH WOULD WORSEN THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE IN HASTE. TO THIS EXTENT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SAUDI POSITION RUNS COUNTER TO PRESENT PHASE OF KING HASSAN'S STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS SPANISH SAHARA. (REF A).

4. AL-QADI SAID THAT SAUDI EFFORT TO DAMPEN SPANISH SAHARA ISSUED WAS BASED UPON A) DESIRE TO AVOID ENDANGERING EXCELLENT SPANISH-SAUDI RELATIONS, B) DESIRE TO AVOID CONFLICTS IN ME WHICH WOULD ALIENATE ARAB FRIENDS AND CAUSE DIVERSION OF ATTENTION FROM EFFORTS SETTLE ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM, WHICH NOW AT CRITICAL STAGE, C) FEAR THAT DISPUTES WOULD EMERGE AMONG ALGERIA, MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO IF EVENTS BEGIN TO MOVE TOO FAST, AND D) SAUDI EVALUATION OF INTERNAL SPANISH SITUATION: GENERAL FRANCO NOT NOW WELL ENOUGH PERSONALLY TO FOCUS ON SPANISH SAHARA PROBLEM AND ONLY HE NOW ABLE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CONCESSIONS; IF GENERAL FRANCO PASSES FROM THE SCENE WITHOUT HAVING RESOLVED THIS ISSUE THE SUCCESSOR REGIM WILL NEED SOME TIME BEFORE IT FEELS CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO MAKE THE REQUIRED CONCESSIONS.

5. AL-QADI SAID THAT IF ASKED BY EITHER PARTY THE SAG PREPARED TO MAKE ITS GOOD OFFICES AVAILABLE AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO IN ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

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6. AL-QADI SAID PRESENT CAUTIOUS SAUDI POSITION SHOULD BE VIEWED AGAINST BACKGROUND OF SAUDI CONVICTION THAT SPAIN MUST RELINQUISH CONTROL OF SPANISH SAHARA BUT THAT THE SETTLEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR SPAIN LEGITIMATE ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC CONCERNS AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TERRITORIAL CONCERNS OF ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA AS WELL AS MOROCCO.

7. SUBSTANCE OF SAUDI POSITION OUTLINED ABOVE WAS CONFIRMED
TO AMBASSADOR IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH MINSTATE FOR
FONAFFAIRS SAQQAF WHO HAD JUST RECEIVED SPECIAL REPRESENT-
ATIVE OF KING HASSAN, ABU BAKR AL QADIRI. AL QADIRI HAD
AUDIENCE LATER THAT SAME DAY WITH THE KING.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, POLITICAL STABILITY, SELFDETERMINATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA04411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740205-0730
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740710/aaaaaifk.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) RABAT 3497; (B) RABAT 3342; (C), RABAT 3371
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: SAUDI ARABIAN POSITION
TAGS: PFOR, MO, SP, SS, SA, (AL-QADI, ABDULRAHMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005